

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

April 24, 2001

Maricopa Association of Governments Office
302 North First Avenue, Suite 200, Saguaro Room,
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Wickenburg: Fred Carpenter, Chair
Phoenix: Lynn Timmons for Jack Tevlin,
Vice-Chair
ADOT: Dan Lance
Avondale: David Cano for Michael Powell
*Buckeye: Joe Blanton
Chandler: Bryan Patterson
*Fountain Hills: Randy Harrell
Gilbert: Tami Ryall
Glendale: Terry Johnson for Jim Book
Goodyear: Andrew Cooper for Cato
Esquivel
Guadalupe, Mark Johnson
Litchfield Park: Mike Cartsonis

Maricopa County: Chris Plumb for Tom
Buick
Mesa: Ron Krosting
Paradise Valley: Robert M. Cicarelli for
Tom Martinsen
*Peoria: David Moody
RPTA: Bryan Jungwirth for Ken Driggs
Scottsdale: Peggy Carpenter for John C.
Little
Surprise: Miryam Gutier
Tempe: Glenn Kephart

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Regional Bicycle Task Force: Maureen
Mageau-Decindis, RPTA for Eric Iwersen,
Tempe
*Street Committee: Grant Anderson,
Glendale
*ITS Committee: Jim Book

*Pedestrian Working Group: Reed
Kempton, Maricopa County
Dept of Transportation
*Telecommunications Advisory Group:
Jim Hull

* Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Anderson, MAG
Chris Voigt, MAG
Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT
Chuck Easton, ADOT
Jorie Bresnahan, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Roger Herzog, MAG
Dawn Coomer, MAG
Stuart Boggs, RTPA
Ken Hall, MAG

Bob Antila, RTPA
Paul Ward, MAG
Ali Makarachi, Phoenix
Andrew Smith, ADOT
Mark Schlappi, MAG
Stephen Tate, MAG
Rebecca Kimbrough, MAG
Julia Hardt, MAG
Kelly Taft, MAG

1. Call to Order

Fred Carpenter, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of March 27, 2001 Minutes

Addressing the first order of business, Chairman Carpenter asked if there were any changes or amendments to the meeting minutes. Bryan Patterson stated that Page 10 of the March 27, 2001, minutes should be changed to state that he had in fact volunteered for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Ad Hoc working group that was formed to discuss possible changes to the TIP development process. After this omission was acknowledged, Bryan Patterson moved to approve the minutes, with Dan Lance seconding. The minutes were subsequently approved by unanimous voice vote.

3. Call to the Audience

Chairman Carpenter noted that he had not received any request to speak cards from the audience, and moved to the next item on the Agenda.

4. Transportation Manager's Report

Chairman Carpenter introduced MAG Transportation Manager, Eric Anderson, who gave the Transportation Manager's report. Mr. Anderson provided the Committee with an update of the federal certification review process that MAG recently completed with members of the Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administrations. Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that the review was conducted over a two-day period in mid April. He provided a brief overview of the visit by federal representatives, which consisted of a process where all aspects of MAG's planning and program management procedures were analyzed and assessed in an effort to certify and maintain MAG's status as the region's official Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in accordance with federal requirements.

Mr. Anderson then announced that at the request of various municipal and County governments, MAG was in the process of preparing a Scope of Work in an effort to issue several Requests for Proposals (RFP) for qualified consultants to conduct three sub-area analyses within different areas of Metropolitan Phoenix. Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the study areas, and noted that the Southeast Area Study will consist of a joint study on transportation needs between the communities of Apache Junction, Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, Queen Creek, and Maricopa and Pinal Counties. Mr. Anderson Stated that the proposed Southwest Valley Area Study will include the communities of Avondale, Buckeye, Gila Bend, Goodyear, Litchfield Park and Tolleson; and that the Northwest Area Study will include the communities of El Mirage, Peoria, Glendale, Surprise, Wickenburg and Youngtown. He noted the area studies would include a scope review session with affected jurisdictions prior to submitting separate RFPs.

Mr. Anderson continued with his report, and informed members of the Committee that the Transportation Planning and Programming Division was working very closely with Rebecca Kimbrough, Fiscal Services Manager of the MAG Fiscal Services Division, to make all final adjustments and changes to the draft version of the FY 2002 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. He informed the Committee that this document would be submitted to the MAG Regional Council on May 23, 2001, for final review and approval. Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that the document serves as the MAG Transportation Planning and Programming Division's official work program and budget document for the upcoming year. He stated that it addresses the division's specific program goals and objectives, and identifies an overall activity budget for all transportation programs. This concluded Mr. Anderson's report.

5. Report on the MAG Freeway Program

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Carpenter introduced Eric Anderson of MAG who briefed the Committee on the MAG Freeway Program. Mr. Anderson noted that the funding bill for the freeway program was currently in the State Legislature, and that the legislature has proposed to take approximately 50 million dollars out of the Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) budget for the 5-Year Current Program, but that it would not have a significant impact on the regional freeway program. However, he stated that it may impact other projects, especially if further reductions are made.

Mr. Carpenter noted that overall revenue collections have increased at a rate of over 7 percent from the previous year, and he wanted to know if this particular trend was still holding. Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that revenues used in the freeway program have increased, and were being tracked at a rate of in between 7 and 8 percent, which reflected a very positive trend for overall revenue collections.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Carpenter asked if there were any requests to hear the item on the consent agenda, pertaining to the Proposed Amendments to the FY 2001-2005 MAG Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Mike Cartsonis asked Mr. Paul Ward, MAG's Transportation Program Manager, if it were possible to obtain maps showing the location of all Park and Ride Lots in the County. Discussion followed, and it was agreed upon that this request would be easy to accommodate. A motion was made by Terry Johnson, and seconded by Mr. Bryan Patterson, to approve the consent agenda item.

8. Interim Close Out of the FY 2001 MAG Federal Funded Program

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Carpenter called on Paul Ward of MAG staff who briefed the Committee on the interim close out of the FY 2001 MAG federal

funded program. Mr. Ward provided the Committee with an overview of the federal FY 2001 Closeout process and addressed three important steps in the overall process. Mr. Ward stated that as part of the process, it was necessary to first identify all available funds and to compare them with projects that are presently programmed, and to carefully ascertain any uncommitted funds. Mr. Ward then stated that it was necessary to identify the projects requested to be carried forward, and to identify all projects in an effort to utilize the funds that will be released. He concluded this overview by stating that it was also necessary to identify some contingency projects that could utilize additional redistributed, or uncommitted obligation authority (OA).

Mr. Ward then addressed funds that are available for FY 2001, and requested the Committee to review Tables One through Five, located in Attachment Two of the agenda packet. He informed the Committee that a total of \$69.3 million in OA funding was available, and that \$34.5 million of this amount consisted of Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding, \$34.6 million was from Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding, and the remaining \$193,399 represented a FY 2000 carry over of OA and Minimum Allocation funds. Mr. Ward stated that \$34.1 million of this total represented freeway projects; whereas the remaining amount represented other, non-freeway related projects.

Mr. Ward addressed Table One of the handout, stating that there were a total of 18 projects totaling approximately 12.6 million that were expected to be carried from FY 2001 to FY 2002. Of these projects, he stated that 5 of them are being carried over for a second year in a row. In addition, Mr. Ward stated that two new projects have been identified by the City of Tempe to be carried over, totaling \$905,000, and also addressed additional new projects that have requested acceleration. With this considered, he stated that the actual amount of projects recommended for carry over amounted to a total of approximately 13.5 million. However, of the total programmed amount of \$69.3 million, 56.7 million has been accounted for, and 12.6 million will be carried over for FY 2002.

Mr. Ward then referred to Tables Two through five of the packet and addressed scenarios for projects that requested acceleration. He stated that Priority One projects as represented on Table Two of the agenda packet totaled \$2.9 million; Priority Two projects as represented on Table Three totaled \$3.6 million, and Priority Three projects on Table Four totaled \$10.2 million. When considering these projects, Mr. Ward also addressed Table Five, which represented Staff-recommended accelerated projects totaling \$11.2 million. Staff recommended projects include all of Priority One and Two projects, with several projects contained within the Priority Three list. Mr. Ward indicated that with the recommended projects totaling \$11.2 million, and a carryover of \$12.6 million, that there will be a remaining amount of \$1.4 million for further, or additional project consideration. Mr. Ward stated that the recommended actions include a list of interim closeout priorities, a formal TIP amendment, and a Work Program Amendment. He went on to finalize the discussion with an overview of contingency projects and actions that would be needed to prioritize such projects, although contingency projects did not have to be done at today's meeting. Mr. Ward then

concluded his presentation and discussion followed.

During open discussion, Mr. Ward was requested to address additional projects that have also requested acceleration. He noted that these included a City of Phoenix project, a telework program request, and a project for advanced design of bridges on the Superstition Freeway. Ms. Lynn Timmons stated that the City of Phoenix's project consisted of a fiber optic "backbone" project that was planned for construction during 2006. Mr. Dan Lance opened discussion on the advanced design process for the Superstition Freeway bridges, and this was followed by discussion from Mr. Chris Plumb of Maricopa County, on how the County could possibly utilize some of the uncommitted program funds for a REACT program. Mr. Plumb went on to provide an overview of the program, and stated how it was intended to be utilized to assist public safety officers in quickly responding to emergency situations on roadways throughout the County. This resulted in further, open discussion on different ways to expend the funds in question.

Mr. Bryan Jungwirth then asked the Committee whether it would be a good idea to collectively get an additional list of projects to consider, and come back to the May meeting for further discussion. Mr. Ward indicated that the only project that would likely be affected by a deferral to May would be a project in need of a Work Program Amendment. A motion was made by Ms. Peggy Carpenter to accept the staff recommendation of \$11.2 million in carry over projects from FY 2001 to FY 2002, and to delay discussion of the remaining funds until the May meeting of the Transportation Review Committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lynn Timmons and unanimously approved. At the request of Chairman Carpenter, a subsequent motion was made by Bryan Patterson to amend the FY 2001-2005 MAG TIP and amend the FY 2001 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to add the respective projects, and was seconded by Ms. Lynn Timmons. The motion was unanimously approved.

12. Consultant Selection for MAG Bottleneck Study

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Carpenter introduced Mr. Mark Schlappi, MAG's System Analysis Program Manager, who briefed the Committee on the selection process for the MAG Bottleneck Study. Mr. Schlappi provided an overview of the study objectives, which will include an overall analysis of Freeway Traffic Data resulting in the identification and location of various traffic bottleneck locations in the study area. He stated that proposals were received from Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. and Olsson Associates. Mr. Schlappi announced that the Consultant Selection Group consisted of representatives from Maricopa County, ADOT, MAG, and the Cities of Chandler, Glendale, and Phoenix. After the proposals were ranked, Mr. Schlappi indicated that Olsson Associates received 492 points by the Consultant Selection Group, whereas Kimley-Horn and Associates received a total of 475 points. Based upon the scoring criteria and overall ranking process, Mr. Schlappi announced that the Consultant Selection Group made a formal recommendation to have Olsson Associates conduct the study. The Committee did not present any questions for Mr. Schlappi, and Mr. Chris Plumb made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dan Lance, to recommend that Olsson

Associates Inc. conduct the MAG Bottleneck Travel Study for an amount not to exceed \$300,000. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. Update on Vision 21 Task Force Recommendations and Related Activities

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Carpenter introduced Eric Anderson of MAG who updated the Committee on Vision 21 Task Force recommendations. Mr. Anderson noted that further actions regarding the Vision 21 Task Force were on hold until the State Budget is approved. Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that Maricopa County has conducted a stakeholders group meeting regarding the establishment of a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), and provided members in attendance with a copy of a handout which was prepared by the Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT). This handout consisted of a series of case points as to why there is a need for a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), which appears as though it would be overseen and administered by the Maricopa County government. Discussion followed, and Mr. Chris Plumb of MCDOT stated that the County needed additional time to prepare for a presentation, but insisted that the RTA process would be presented by Maricopa County representatives at the next TRC meeting in May.

10. MAG Regional External Travel Study

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Carpenter introduced Mr. Mark Schlappi of MAG, who provided the Committee with an overview of the MAG Regional External Travel Study. Mr. Schlappi noted that the purpose of the project was for MAG to maintain the regional travel demand forecasting model for the Phoenix Metropolitan area. He stated that the primary goals of the study focused upon updating the MAG regional travel model and obtaining the necessary data for transportation projects. Mr. Schlappi presented an overview of the planning and data collection process, which included surveys at 15 locations throughout the study area; obtaining counts at 17 locations on perimeter of the MAG transportation modeling area; and the in-depth interviewing of 726 trucks and 6,146 autos. Mr. Schlappi reported that the regional travel modeling area has increased significantly since the last update to the external travel model components in 1986, and asked the Committee if they had any questions pertaining to the study that was included within their packets. There were no questions from the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Schlappi's presentation.

11. Regional Transportation Plan Update – Forum Themes

Chairman Carpenter once again introduced Mr. Eric Anderson of MAG, who provided the Committee with an update on the development of the new Regional Transportation Plan. The primary focus of Mr. Anderson's presentation addressed the findings of the Expert Panel Forums that were conducted as part of the regional planning process. Mr. Anderson explained that his presentation was based upon the salient findings of each of the forums. He then presented the relevant findings as they pertained to demographic and social change, the new economy, environmental and resource issues, land use and

urban development, and transportation and technology. During his presentation, Mr. Anderson specifically addressed the fact that some of the earlier figures which were provided by the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) that projected the metropolitan region's population base at ten-year intervals to the year of 2040 may actually underestimate future growth, and that the region has the potential to have more than the 6.3 million persons projected by 2040, and possibly reaching 7.8 million by that year. Mr. Anderson concluded his presentation and entertained questions from members of the Committee. Mr. Bryan Jungwirth addressed the metropolitan region's growing population base, and wanted to know what effects this increased growth would present on the region's air quality problems. Mr. Anderson stated that from an air quality modeling perspective, that the quantifiable long-term effect was not certain at this time. He reported that the new DES projections would not be released until 2002, and that MAG would work with DES at that point to determine the possible long-term effects on regional growth based upon the released projections and additional modeling.

13. Next Meeting Date

Chairman Carpenter told the Committee that the next meeting of the Committee would be on May 22, 2001. There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:38 p.m.